GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2844
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
RESTRICTION ON ENTRY TO TEMPLES
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some temples and shrines are still not opened to all sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to bring in a legislation to do away with such restrictions and establish free entry to temples, shrines and other pilgrim sites;and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) & (b): Article 17 of the Constitution has abolished untouchability, its practice in any form is forbidden, and enforcement of any social disability arising out of untouchability, is an offence punishable under the Protection of Civil Right (PCR) Act, 1955. This Act of Parliament is implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(c) & (d): Section 3 of the Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955, already provides for punishment for enforcing religious disabilities, on the grounds of untouchability.